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JONES, Detective Chief Inspector Elwyn

Cross-examined by Mr. Capstick

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WOOD, Police Sergeant Kenneth

Extract from examination-in-chief re  
identification of the defendant TAYLOR

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Peter Smith was

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A Q Mr. Jones, you are of the Special Branch, are you?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q What is the Special Branch? A. It is a part of the Metropolitan Police, sir, which specializes in subversive political organisations.

B Q Subversive? A. Can I withdraw that and say extremist, sir?

Q People with strong views either left or right?  
A. Yes, sir.

Q Not subversive? A. No. I made a mistake there, sir. I apologise. I should not have said that, sir.

C Q And is it your job to find out as much as possible about people who are engaged in such political activities?  
A. Yes, sir, it is.

Q In your statement you say this and I do not know whether you wish to retreat from it. You remember giving a statement of evidence? A. Yes, sir.

D Q "I saw one man about twenty-five years old, about 6 ft. tall, heavily built, with bushy curly hair and a fat face, who I now know to be Edward Michael Davoren"? A. That is true, sir.

Q Did you not know him before that at all? A. I had not known Daveron before.

E Q Although you have just referred to him in this court as Ed Davoren? A. I have known him by reputation but never met him before.

Q Never seen him before? A. No, sir.

F Q It is your job to find out as much as possible about people engaged in activities of this sort. Did you know he had appeared on a number of occasions on television before the 12th January expressing his views? A. As I said, sir, I had known him by reputation but had not seen him before.

Q By reputation, you say. Let us clear this up at once: he is a person who has never been charged with any offence at all in his life before? A. I believe so, sir.

G Q He is in fact very active politically. That is right, is it not? A. That is right, sir.

Q Did you have some idea of what he was going to look like before you went on this demonstration? A. Oh, yes.

H MR. CUSSEN: My Lord, that is a question in a form which is not possible to answer in one word. If my learned friend wishes to put the question no doubt he will first of all put it by asking whether the officer in fact knew that Davoren was going to go upon the demonstration.

MR. CAPSTICK: Had you seen any photographs of Davoren before you went out on January 12th? A. Yes. I had seen photographs of him, sir.

A Q Had you had him pointed out to you? A. Yes, I had.

Q So when you went on this procession you knew that Davoren was active politically, someone who was one of the leaders of what you have described as subversive, a left wing organisation, and I take it you were keeping your eyes open to see if you could see him during the course of the procession? A. Yes, sir, that is true.

B Q Had you made up your mind to watch him more than anyone else? A. No, sir.

Q He was certainly not one of the leaders who decided to go down to South Africa House? A. I did not see him there.

C Q And they were the people who decided to go to South Africa House? A. I did not see him. He might well have been there, sir. It was very crowded. I could have been standing very close to him and not see him.

Q You were keeping your eyes open specially for him? A. Certainly not, sir.

D Q Amongst the group leaders you described you did not see him? A. No, sir.

Q And those are the people who apparently from your observation tried to break away down to South Africa House? A. Yes, sir.

E Q You were in plain clothes, were you? A. Yes, sir.

Q Dressed as you are now? A. No, sir. I was dressed as a demonstrator.

F Q We have been told by other officers that it would be difficult to distinguish members of the National Front in appearance from people taking part in the procession. Would you agree with that? A. Oh yes, sir.

Q How many other officers were in plain clothes? A. I think there were about a dozen. Between <sup>two</sup> and a dozen of us, sir.

G Q That is Special Branch, is it, or attached to the Special Branch? A. I can only speak for the Special Branch. I cannot speak for the CID., sir, but there were about ten Special Branch officers. It may be one or two less or it may be one or two more.

Q Had there been a briefing by you before the Special Branch officers went on the procession? A. Not by me, sir, but by my Chief Superintendent.

Q Had Davoren's name been mentioned? A. No, I do not think it was mentioned in the briefing, sir.

Q Did you know that apart from other organisations in which he is an active or a demonstrative member, that he is secretary of the Campaign Against Police Brutality?

Q Did you know in fact he had gone along as part of a deputation to Scotland Yard to present evidence?  
A. No, I do not know that either.

Q Now dealing with your part. You went with the procession into the Strand and up to Rhodesia House? A. Yes, sir.

B Q Incidentally, one other thing. The other plain clothes officers who were members of the Special Branch, were they dressed like ordinary members of the public or in weird clothes? What sort of clothes? A. There was no briefing on this. We turned out exactly as we thought fit. Some were wearing suits and ties, sir, and some were not.

C Q When you talk about Davenor and the group with him, were you able to identify any of that group? A. No, sir.

Q We have been told by other officers that 200 to 300 people were attacking the coach, not ten or twelve. Would you agree with that? A. Well, there was a crowd of 200 to 300 round about there, but the determined attack from my observation was done by a group of ten or twelve.

D Q Where were you? A. At this stage I was standing up by Joe Lyons' entrance; corner of Duncannon Street and the Strand looking at the back of the coach.

Q How far from the coach? A. Some 10 to 15 yards.

E Q The coach was facing towards Trafalgar Square on the same level as the rest of the crowd? A. Yes, sir. I was on the pavement.

Q You are not particularly clear, I take it? Your vision was not particularly clear of what was going on?  
A. Why shouldn't it be, sir?

F Q We have heard from other officers it was difficult to see?  
A. No, sir. I could see the other side of the road although it was dusk. The street lights were on and I could see right across to the top of Villiers Street and Craven Street with no trouble at all.

G Q And were the demonstrators, the members of the National Front group, from one pavement to the other in the Strand at this time? A. The last I had seen of the National Front they were contained in almost one body on the south side of the Strand outside Burton's Tailors and that is the last I saw of the National Front contingent. They may have ~~have~~ split up after that.

Q Did you ever see any fights between the National Front members and members of the procession? A. No, sir, I did not.

H Q You say you had a good view standing on the pavement looking towards the coach 15 yards in front of you?  
A. Yes, sir. When I was standing on the pavement I was not stationary all the time. I was walking up and down, getting around and looking at things. I did not stand still all the time.

Q You had a good view of the man under the coach, I take it?  
A. Yes, I was very interested in him.

A Q Not a very helpful thing to do, to try to blow up a coach which contained some of their members? A. Well, I saw him at it, sir.

Q Are you sure? A. Yes, sir.

Q Fifteen yards away? A. I was not standing still all the time. I walked up and down past the coach and back again.

B

Q With people packed round the coach? A. The Strand is a very wide road, sir, and you can get around. You are not packed still.

Q 200 to 300 people round the coach, we have heard from an officer, and you could see underneath the coach, could you?

C

A. Yes, indeed I did, sir, from the rear of the coach.

Q Were you bending down? A. No. I saw him crawl under.

Q Although there were people round that coach and it was 15 yards away? A. Yes, and I saw some people drag him out - I do not know who they were - but they caught him by his feet and pulled him out.

D

Q You said something about a cigarette lighter? A. Yes, sir, a cigarette lighter. He had a cigarette lighter which he switched on and crawled underneath the coach.

Q You saw all that when you were 15 yards away from the coach? A. I keep saying I was not all the time 15 yards away.

E

Q I started by asking you when you observed what you saw, you said you were 15 yards away? A. I have since tried to explain I was not standing still all the time. I mixed in with the crowd coming from the Strand.

F

Q What you say now is inconsistent with that, is it not?  
A. I beg your pardon, sir. I can only tell you what I saw.

G

Q Let us go back in time to when you say you first saw Ed Davoren, as you described him. Where were you when you say you saw him with the litter bin? A. I was in Duncannon Street facing towards Trafalgar Square, between the Embassy door and the corner of Trafalgar Square, when Daveron came towards me. Obviously he had come out from the front entrance of the Embassy and turned right in Duncannon Street, I thought when I first saw him, and he had a litter bin with him.

H

Q And there were about 800 people in Duncannon Street, were there? A. I did not say there were 800 people in Duncannon Street. There were about 800 people surrounding the area in which the Embassy is situated.

Q How many in Duncannon Street - 50, 100, 200, 300? Was it packed? A. No. I would say 200 to 300 probably at that particular time. They were not standing still all the time, you see, sir.

Q You say he threw this litter bin? A. Yes, sir.

A Q Tell me one thing: did you in the course of your observation ever see any row break out between what apparently were members of the National Front and members of the procession? A. No, sir. I have answered that. I did not see that.

Q Not fights, but arguments, shouting and so on?  
A. Oh yes, outside Rhodesia House.

B Q No, in Duncannon Street. A. No, I did not see that.  
Not at all.

Q In the whole of your observation did you ever see paper inside the litter bin lit on any occasion other than the one you have described? A. No, sir, I did not.

C Q When the litter bin with paper inside it, which you say you saw thrown at the Embassy, where did it fall? A. I think it fell into the basement. I did not see it come back on the pavement, sir. I assume it must have fallen into the basement. From the Duncannon Street door and surrounding the Embassy until it gets down to the Strand side I believe there is a railing which covers the basement. It might well have fallen into that, sir.

D Q I suggest there is no basement there? A. Well, there is a railing which protects some kind of a surround.

Q Was it dark at the time you saw the paper lit? A. Dusk.

Q The man who held the litter bin, who you say was Ed Davoren, picked it up and threw it like that?  
A. Well, he probably hurled it.

E Q You were watching and I was not. What did you see?  
A. Well, I cannot remember exactly how he threw it, but it left his possession and landed against the wall of the Embassy. Whether he over-armed it or under-armed it I am unable to say.

F Q Are you quite sure it was him? A. Positive.

Q It is something that would catch the eye, is it not, a flaming litter bin? A. Yes, sir.

Q Are you sure it was not another young man with bushy, black hair? A. No, it was Daveron.

G Q How about these poles. How far away were you when Mr. Daveron had a pole? A. About as far as I am from you now, sir, which is what? - 10 to 12 yards.

Q People in between you and him? A. Yes, sir.

H Q Was he facing you or away from you? A. He was facing towards the Embassy, and this was in fact over-armed as one would throw a spear. That I can remember, sir.

Q Were there any police officers there then? A. There were some motor cyclists who had arrived in Duncannon Street by this time.

A Q Where were they in relation to Davoren? A. They had stationed themselves outside the Duncannon Street door to prevent and further charges being made against it. Daveron would have been on their left facing north from the Duncannon Street door. This was after the litter bin incident.

B Q How was Davoren dressed at this stage? A. He had a windcheater jacket on with a zipp front.

B Q He was not dressed like that? Look at that. (a photograph handed) A. Yes, he could be.

C Q That is a white raincoat? A. It was a rainproof thing -- No, I do not know. Let me think.

C Q You saw him. You were looking out for him. Are you sure he was not dressed like that?

C THE RECORDER: Let him consider before he answers.

THE WITNESS: No, it was -- I am almost sure it was a kind of windcheater raincoat he was wearing, sir.

MR. CAPSTICK: Did you see him at any stage take his shirt off? A. I did not see him. I saw afterwards that is what he had done. I did not see him.

D Q I suggest he took his shirt off and his windcheater and tied his shirt to the ~~pole~~ pole? A. I was told that after, but I did not see it.

E Q And then tried to set fire to his shirt? A. Yes, sir. One of the police motor cycles was turned over and he dabbed his shirt in the petrol that was spilt, but I did not see how he got it alight.

F Q You say you saw that, but you never saw him take his shirt off or tie it to the pole? A. No, sir.

F Q Did you hear him shout out anything when he had the pole in his hand? A. No, sir.

G Q Nothing about: "This is what I think of White Power"? A. No, sir, I did not hear that.

G Q Did you hear any National Front people shouting: "Keep Britain pure; send the blacks home!"? A. No, sir, I did not hear that.

G Q When you saw him with the pole in his hand, was he waving it in the air? A. No, I saw him hurling it at the building. That is when it first registered with me that is what was going on.

H Q It was not thrown down on the ground; it was thrown at the building? A. Thrown towards a window, sir.

H Q A window of the building in Duncannon Street? A. Yes, on the Duncannon Street side, sir.

Q What did it do, hit the wall? A. I believe it did. It did not do much damage to the wall. It was thrown from St. Martin's-in-the-Fields side of the road.

Q I suggest it was thrown down; not thrown at the Embassy?  
 A. Well, I saw it thrown at the wall of the Embassy, sir.

Q I am a little puzzled at the moment about your movements.  
 You had come up the Strand to South Africa House; that is  
 the front facing Trafalgar Square? A. You mean when  
 I first went there?

Q When you first saw Davoren. A. When we left Rhodesia  
 House?

B Q Yes. A. Most of the crowd went round the Strand  
 side, turned right round the front of South Africa House  
 and right into Duncannon Street. At that point I was  
 almost opposite St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Church steps  
 on the opposite side of the road.

C Q Was that the first time you saw Davoreh? A. That is  
 the first time I saw him with the litter bin. As I was  
 coming out of Duncannon Street so he was going into it.

D Q And did that litter bin appear to be the same one that you  
 say he lit? A. I think it was. I cannot say for  
 sure that it was.

E Q What windows do you say he was aiming to break in the  
 Duncannon Street part of South Africa House?  
 A. Well, they would be the windows which are nearest to  
 the Trafalgar Square end.

F Q Were they directly abutting the pavement? A. Oh no,  
 there is a railing in between.

G Q Do you say he was able to get at the windows by leaning  
 over the railing? A. He hurled the bin. He  
 threw the bin.

H E Q He threw the bin? A. Yes, sir.

I Q I thought that was the bin you saw him lighting later?  
 A. I beg your pardon. You are asking me if he could  
 reach across the railings to break the window with this  
 bin, the first bin, sir?

J F Q Yes, that is what I am asking you? A. Yes, I think  
 you could. I am sure you could. He was leaning across  
 the railings hammering away with this bin at the building.

K G Q Then how long after that do you say it was that you saw  
 him with the paper alight? A. The whole of this bit  
 of fighting took about twenty minutes altogether. After  
 the first time I saw him I suppose it would be about ten  
 to fifteen minutes when I saw him with the lighted bin  
 and then soon after that with the spear.

L H Q You first saw him with the bin and he still had it with  
 him ten minutes later? A. I do not know whether it  
 was the same one, sir, because there were times when he  
 did not have the bin, when he was charging against the  
 Duncannon Street door.

M Q I am coming to that. You say he was charging against  
 the door. Where were you? A. I was standing in  
 the middle of the road. If I may use this for the  
 Duncannon Street door, sir, I was standing about where

this bench begins, some 10 or 12 yards away from it.

Q And he had his shoulder against the door, did he?

A. There were about ten or twelve men who were linking arms together and then into the door.

A

Q And he was leading them? A. He was one of them.

Q He was at the front, was he? A. No. I would say he was in the middle of them, sir.

Q So there would be people either side of him?

B A. People linking arms.

Q He is not particularly tall, is he? A. 5 ft. 9 ins., or 10 ins.

Q You had a clear view of him? A. Yes, sir, I was not very far away from him.

C THE RECORDER: Where was this door? Was that in Duncannon Street or round the front? A. The Duncannon Street door, my Lord.

Q Was this charging of the door in between the time you saw him with the litter bin and the next occasion you saw him with the litter bin lit? A. Yes, sir.

D Q It was in between there was a charging of the door?

A. Yes, my Lord.

MR. CAPSTICK: You described him as 6 ft? A. I have said I made a mistake there. He is about 5 ft. 9 ins., or 10.

Q Are you sure you have not made any other mistakes?

E A. No, sir. I feel I have not made any mistakes in identity here, sir.

Q It would make the Special Branch job much easier if leaders at times were arrested, would it not? A. It would not make any difference, because if one leader is arrested another one follows, sir. It does not make any difference at all.

F Q I suggest your evidence about seeing Daveron with the litter bin being thrown at the Embassy, breaking the window of the Embassy and charging the door is quite untrue?

A. No, sir, it is not.

Q So far as lighting the shirt is concerned, I suggest that the shirt hardly lit at all. Would you agree with that? A. There was some flames from it. It was not a big fire.

G

Q That was a complete anti-climax; it fizzled out almost immediately? A. It did not do any harm; did not do any damage.

H

Q When you say the pole was thrown, and I say thrown down, the shirt had gone out? A. It might have done, but it certainly was alight at one time. At one time I saw it on fire.

Q That photograph I showed you: did you see that incident, the ceremonial burning of that particular placard? A. No, sir. I had not seen that photograph before.

THURSDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, 1969

Extract from the examination in chief by MR. CORKERY  
of Temporary Detective Constable (now Police Sergeant)  
KENNETH WOOD:

A

Q Can you see the leader of that particular group here?  
A. Yes, sir, it is the gentleman with the beard in the check sports coat.

Q We know his name to be Bolton. A. Yes, sir.

B

Q How did he compare in size with the others in his group?  
A. He was considerably larger, sir; much bulkier in build and much larger than the other members.

Q What sort of clothing was he wearing at the time?  
A. As I remember, sir----

C

Q I see you are looking at a note-book. Was that a note you made soon after the incident? A. Yes, sir, I made these notes in the police coach shortly afterwards.

Q With my Lord's permission you can refresh your memory from it.

THE RECORDER: Yes.

D

THE WITNESS: Thank you very much, sir. He was wearing a green combat jacket. One of those with the four pockets.

MR. CORKERY: Who else was with him in the group you can see here to-day? A. (the witness pauses) I cannot recognise him at the moment, sir.

E

Q Did you indicate---- A. He is the man sitting -- Sorry!

THE RECORDER: Do you recognise anyone else? A. Yes, sir, the gentleman next to him on his ~~right~~ left, if I remember.

Q On his left; your right? A. On his right, sir.

F

Q On his right? A. Yes, sir.

Q I think you are pointing differently. A. Sorry! I am trying to indicate to his right, sir -- Sorry! his left.

Q His left; your right? A. Yes, sir.

G MR. CORKERY: Perhaps Robert James Taylor would stand up for a moment. Is that the man you were indicating?  
A. Yes, sir.

THE RECORDER: Thank you.

MR. CORKERY: Did you make a note as to what his clothing was?  
A. Yes, sir. He was wearing a blue anorak; dark blue.

H

etc.

etc.

etc.